Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A measuring tape for measuring a distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and

a tab fixed to said free end for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least three directions transverse to said lengthwise edge such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.

2. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 1, wherein said blade further comprises

a second lengthwise edge and

two sets of indicia imprinted onto said blade which correspond to units of measure,

the first set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a first lengthwise edge portion of said blade and positioned on said blade such that said indicia are arranged in an upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from said free end toward said fixed end, and

the second set of indicia including numbers imprinted along a second lengthwise edge portion of said blade and positioned on said blade such that said indicia are arranged in an upside-down position one after the other, relative to said first set of indicia, and increase in value when read from said free end toward said fixed end,

wherein one of said sets of indicia is legible right-side-up whether said free end is positioned at the first point or the second point.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 1 wherein the tab further comprises:

a bracket portion having a bracket end fixed to said free end and coplanar with said free end; and

and an X-shaped hook portion attached to said bracket end

wherein said hook portion extends upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

5. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 1 wherein said tab comprises:

a bracket portion having a bracket end fixed to said free end and coplanar with said free end; and

a circular disc-shaped hook portion attached to said bracket end, said hook portion extending radially 360 degrees transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

6. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

said first set of indicia and said second set of indicia are arranged in a right-side-up orientation relative to said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edge, respectively.

7. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

said first set of indicia and said second set of indicia are arranged in an upside-down orientation relative to said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edge, respectively.

8. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 2, wherein

the tab comprises

a bracket portion fixed to said free end and coplanar to said free end and having a bracket end and

a hook portion selected from the group consisting of

an "X"-shaped hook portion attached to said bracket end, said hook portion extending upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to said first lengthwise edge and

a circular disc-shaped hook portion attached to said bracket end, said hook portion extending radially 360 degrees transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

9. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 1 wherein said tab further comprises a base fixed to said free end and an extension removably connected to said base, said extension having a slot into which said base is inserted for removable interconnection therewith, and said extension extending in at least three directions transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

10. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, wherein said base comprises an "L"-shaped base, one portion of said base being attached to, and coplanar with, said free end.

11. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, said extension comprising an "X"-shaped hook that extends upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

12. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, said extension comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to said first lengthwise edge.

13. (Currently Amended) The measuring tape recited in claim 9, said blade further comprising a second lengthwise edge wherein ~~said~~ a first set of indicia and ~~said~~ a second set of indicia are arranged in a right-side-up orientation relative to said first lengthwise edge and said second lengthwise edge, respectively.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from the housing through said blade outlet,

a removable tab attachable to said free end for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, and

means for attaching said tab to said free end of the blade,

wherein said tab, when attached to said free end, extends in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least three directions transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.

18. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 17,

said blade further comprising

a second lengthwise edge and

two sets of indicia imprinted onto said blade which correspond to units of measure,

a first set of said two sets of indicia including numbers imprinted along said first lengthwise edge and positioned on said blade such that said indicia are arranged in upright position one after the other and increase in value when read from said free end toward said fixed end, and

a second set of said two sets of indicia including numbers imprinted along said second lengthwise edge and positioned on said blade such that said indicia are arranged in upside-down position one after the other, relative to said first set of numbers, and increase in value when read from said free end toward said fixed end,

whereby one of said sets of indicia is legible right-side-up whether said free end is positioned at the first point or the second point.

19. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 17, said tab comprising a base fixed to said free end and an extension removably connected to said base, the extension having a slot into which said base is inserted for removable interconnection therewith, said extension extending in at least three directions transverse to said first lengthwise edge at said free end.

20. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 19, said base comprising an "L"-shaped base, one portion of said base being attached to, and coplanar with, said free end, said extension comprising an "X"-shaped hook and extending upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to said first lengthwise edge at said free end.

21. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 19, said base comprising an "L"-shaped base, one portion of said base attached to, and coplanar with, said free end, said extension comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to said first lengthwise edge at the free end.

22. (Previously Presented) A removable tab extension adapted to be attached to a free end of a blade of a measuring tape for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to a point being measured from, said measuring tape comprising a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing, a flexible elongated blade having one fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub, a lengthwise edge, and a free end extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and a tab fixed to said free end, the tab extension comprising:

a connection portion having means for removably connecting said tab extension to said tab, and

a hooking device portion extending in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least three directions transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end when said tab extension is attached to said tab with no portion of said tab and said tab extension extending substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.

23. (Previously Presented) The tab extension of claim 22,

said hooking device portion comprising an "X"-shaped" hook that extends upwardly, downwardly, and widthwise transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end when said tab extension is connected to said tab.

24. (Previously Presented) The tab extension of claim 22,

said hooking portion comprising a circular disc extending radially 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at the free end when said tab extension is connected to said tab.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape of claim 1,

said tab being rotatably fixed to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at the free end.

28. (Previously Presented) The measuring tape recited in claim 17, said tab being rotatably fixed to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A measuring tape for measuring a distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from said housing through said blade outlet, and

a tab rotatably fixed to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end and configured for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, said tab extending in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least two directions transverse to said lengthwise edge such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.

32. (Previously Presented) A measuring tape for measuring the distance between a first point and a second point comprising

a housing having a blade outlet and a blade hub centrally located inside said housing,

a flexible elongated blade having

a fixed end connected to said blade hub and coiled into a roll around said blade hub,

a first lengthwise edge, and

a free end having a widthwise edge and extending from the housing through said blade outlet

a removable tab rotatably attachable to said free end such that said tab is rotatable 360 degrees transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end and configured for temporarily and removably hooking said free end to the first point, and

means for attaching said tab to said free end of the blade,

wherein said tab, when attached to said free end, extends in a plane perpendicular to said blade in at least three directions transverse to said lengthwise edge at said free end such that no portion of said tab extends substantially beyond said perpendicular plane.